

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 190935Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7364
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, RP
SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO NEW YORK INCIDENT CONTINUES

REF: MANILA 10074

1. SUMMARY: MANILA NEWSPAPERS JUNE 18 STRESSED ROMULO'S STATEMENT FROM THAILAND THAT THE NEW YORK POLICE'S VERSION OF THE JUNE 11 INCIDENT AT PHILIPPINE HOUSE IS "COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE." JUNE 19 PRESS QUOTES MARCOS THAT THE INCIDENT WILL NOT AFFECT MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS BUT WILL NOT HELP PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN RELATIONS. PRESS ALSO REPORTS DEPARTMENT'S FORMAL APOLOGY TO GOP AND ALLEGATIONS THAT ARRESTED FILIPINOS WERE FORCED TO STRIP NAKED. COMMENTARY IS SLOWING DOWN, LIMITED NOW TO TWO COLUMNISTS AND TWO CARTOONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. CONTINUING PRESS TREATMENT OF REACTION TO THE NEW YORK INCIDENT FOCUSED JUNE 18 ON FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO'S CATEGORICAL REJECTION, FROM THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL IN THAILAND, OF THE NEW YORK POLICE'S EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO REUTER REPORT IN "BULLETIN TODAY" JUNE 18, ROMULO DENOUNCED THE POLICE'S "UNPROVOKED ASSAULT" AND SAID THE REASONS FOR IT WERE STILL UNEXPLAINED.

"DAILY EXPRESS" QUOTES HIM AS DEMANDING "PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST THE HOODLUMS DRESSED IN POLICE UNIFORMS" AND SAYING THE GOP IS NOT DISPOSED TO ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN REDRESS FOR THE GRAVE ACTS OF MALICE AND CRUELTY AGAINST MISSION STAFF MEMBERS.

3. MANILA PRESS JUNE 19 REPORTS PRIME MINISTER MARCOS' REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY REPORTERS ON WHETHER THE INCIDENT WILL AFFECT MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS. IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE INCIDENT, MARCOS REPLIED: "THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO MATTERS. BUT SINCE THE FIRST INCIDENT AND THE EVENTS ARISING FROM IT AFFECT THE HONOR AND GOOD NAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND ITS PEOPLE, IT CERTAINLY WILL NOT HELP THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES." "DAILY EXPRESS" HEADLINE READS "CENTER RAID MARS RP-US TIES - FM" WHILE "TIMES JOURNAL" ACCENTUATES THE POSITIVE: "MARCOS SAYS RAID WON'T AFFECT TALKS."

4. "DAILY EXPRESS" AND "TIMES JOURNAL" JUNE 18 ALSO FEATURE REPORTS THAT DEPARTMENT HAS SENT APOLOGY TO GOP AND THAT ARRESTED FILIPINOS HAD BEEN FORCED TO STRIP NAKED DURING THEIR BRIEF DETENTION. "BULLETIN TODAY" CARRIES LOCAL REPORT ON INDIGNANT REACTION BY KABATAANG BARANGAY YOUTH GROUP AND MINDANAO MUSLIMS. "BULLETIN TODAY" JUNE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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19 CARRIES FEATURE ON INDIGNANT REACTION OF NEW YORK FILIPINOS.

5. COMMENTARY IS PETERING OUT. JUNE 18-19 IT WAS LIMITED TO COLUMNS BY VALENCIA AND ONE-LINE POLITICAL HUMORIST JOSE GUEVARA, AND EDITORIAL CARTOONS IN "TIMES JOURNAL" AND "DAILY EXPRESS." MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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